BLOODY CROSS

by YONEYAMA Shiwo

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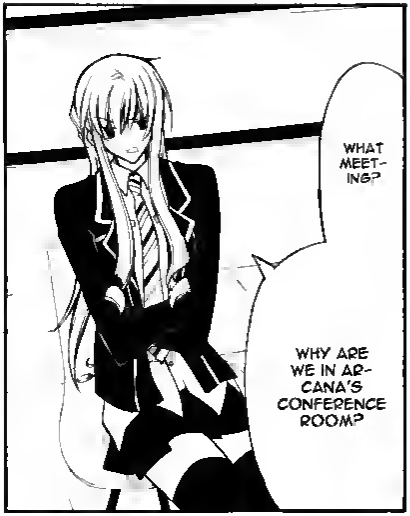
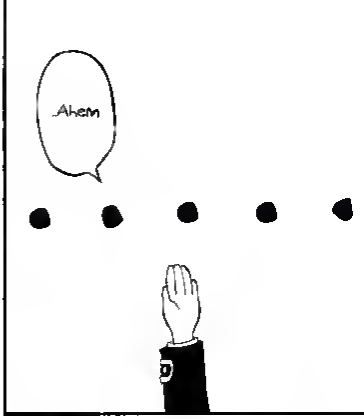
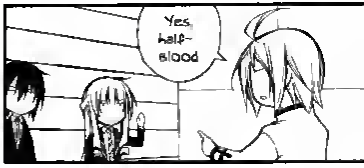
BLOODY CROSS

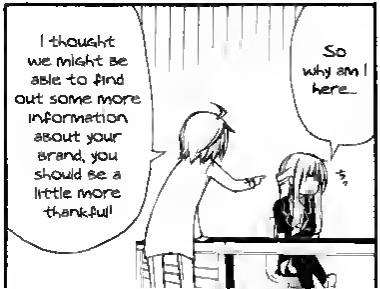
ALRIGHT
PRE-PARATIONS ARE COM-PLETE GENTLE-MEN!!
THE FIRST REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING WILL NOW COM-MENCE!

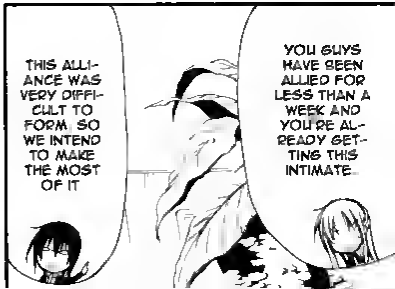

WHAT MEETING?
WHY ARE WE IN ARCANA'S CONFERENCE ROOM?


Ahem

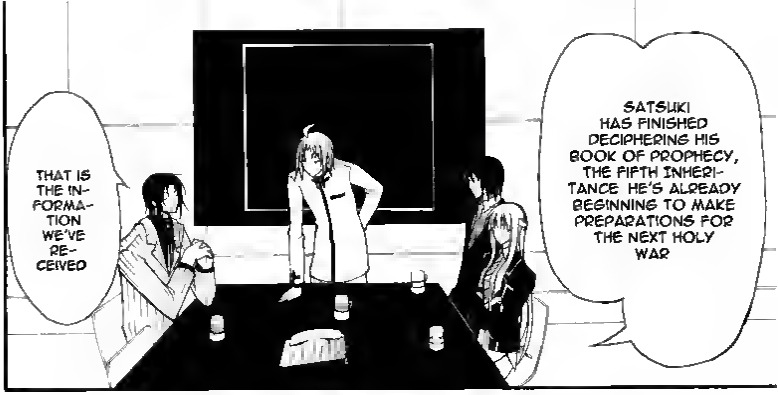

Yes, half-blood

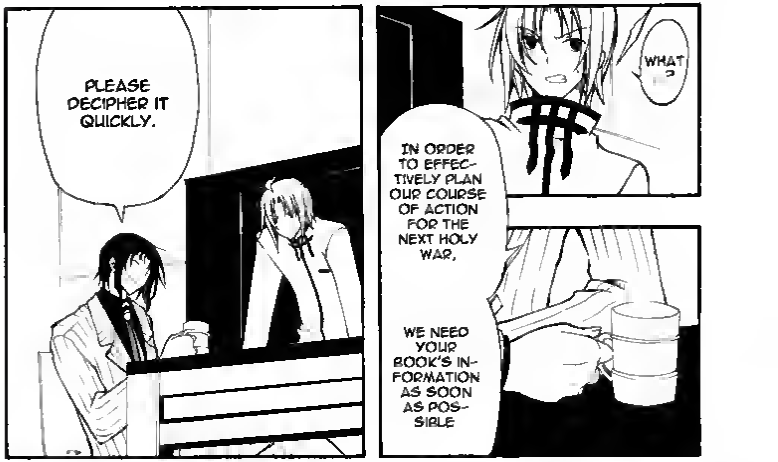
BECAUSE TSUZUKI AND ARCANA HAVE FORMED AN ALLIANCE
FROM NOW ON, WE WILL BE HOLDING REGULARLY SCHEDULE MEETINGS TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION
AND TODAY MARKS THE FIRST OF THOSE MEETINGS
UNDERSTAND?


So why am I here...
I thought we might be able to find out some more information about your brand, you should be a little more thankful!


YOU GUYS HAVE BEEN ALLIED FOR LESS THAN A WEEK AND YOU'RE ALREADY GETTING THIS INTIMATE...
THIS ALLIANCE WAS VERY DIFFICULT TO FORM. SO WE INTEND TO MAKE THE MOST OF IT

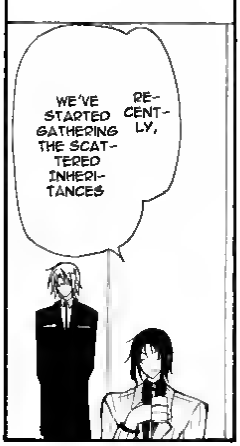
WELL, THEN, HAVE YOU MADE ANY PROGRESS?
BUT OF COURSE!
WE HAVE ALREADY BEGUN DECIPHERING GOD'S BOOK OF PROPHECY, THE FIRST INHERITANCE.
!
OH?
WE'VE FOUND A BUNCH OF INTERESTING THINGS,
BUT WE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A LITTLE MORE PROGRESS BEFORE SUBMITTING A REPORT
I SEE
THAT WAY IT CAN BE VIEWED IN ITS PROPER CONTEXT, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT!


SATSUKI HAS FINISHED DECIPHERING HIS BOOK OF PROPHECY, THE FIFTH INHERITANCE HE'S ALREADY BEGINNING TO MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR THE NEXT HOLY WAR
THAT IS THE INFORMATION WE'VE RECEIVED


WHAT?
IN ORDER TO EFFECTIVELY PLAN OUR COURSE OF ACTION FOR THE NEXT HOLY WAR,
WE NEED YOUR BOOK'S INFORMATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
PLEASE DECIPHER IT QUICKLY.

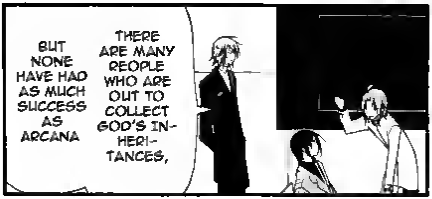
They want something more than just our intelligence.
As I thought, Arcana has an ulterior motive for this alliance...

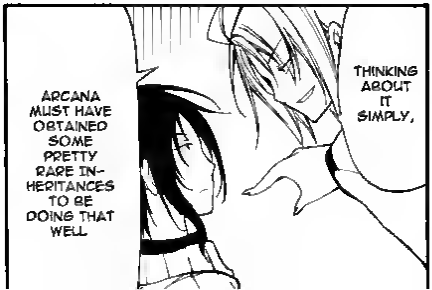
NATURALLY,
THESE AREN'T NUMBERED OR RELATED TO THE HOLY WAR; THEY'RE JUST ORDINARY INHERITANCES
WE HAVE OBTAINED QUITE A FEW


WE'VE STARTED GATHERING THE SCATTERED INHERITANCES
RECENTLY,

YOU MUST HAVE PICKED UP SOME PRETTY FAMOUS ONES
OH?
ROUGHLY HOW MANY HAVE YOU GATHERED?

YOU SHOULD FINISH DECIPHERING THE FIRST INHERITANCE
AFTER THAT, WE CAN GET RID OF OUR MUTUAL SUSPICIONS AND TELL EACH OTHER A LITTLE MORE ABOUT OURSELVES


BUT NONE HAVE HAD AS MUCH SUCCESS AS ARCANA
THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE WHO ARE OUT TO COLLECT GOD'S INHERITANCES,


ARCANA MUST HAVE OBTAINED SOME PRETTY RARE INHERITANCES TO BE DOING THAT WELL
THINKING ABOUT IT SIMPLY,

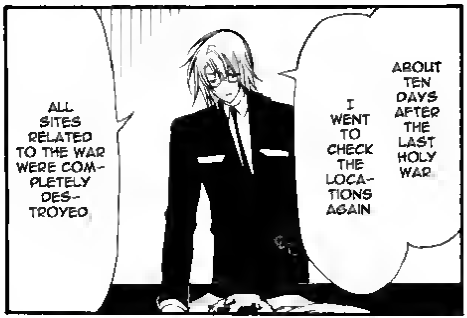
ゴト…

OH?
WE DID COME ACROSS SOMETHING OF INTEREST DURING OUR HUNT FOR THE INHERITANCES.
ALTHOUGH NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT,

YES?
MAKINO-KUN

WHAT IS THAT?

THIS…


ALL SITES RELATED TO THE WAR WERE COMPLETELY DESTROYED.
I WENT TO CHECK THE LOCATIONS AGAIN
ABOUT TEN DAYS AFTER THE LAST HOLY WAR.

WHICH WAS THE LAST KNOWN LOCATION OF HINATA AND SATSUKI'S SPY.
IS ALL THAT REMAINED OF THE CHURCH
Hinata's body wasn't there.
That church...
but I wasn't able to see if he lived or died.
I was able to read everything from the blood up until when Nao stabbed him.

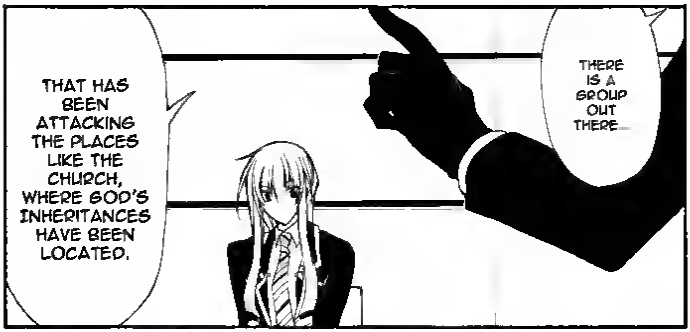
Furthermore...
THE EXISTENCE OF THIS CHURCH IS IN VIOLATION OF PROTOCOL 10 REGARDING THE CONCEALMENT OF THE HOLY WARS.
IN ACCORDANCE WITH MY JUDGMENT.
IT SHALL BE DELETED.
I AM TOKIWA.
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'VE NOTICED, BUT I.... AM A FALLEN ANGEL.
WHY WOULD A FALLEN ANGEL BEAR THE SAME BRAND AS ME?
IS THIS NOT...
A CONTINUATION OF THE HALF-BLOOD'S BRAND!?

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED, I'M RETURNING NOW.
……
ピッ
ｲﾝﾌﾟｯﾄ
……
TSUKIMIYA
WE WILL MEET AGAIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
WE'LL TALK MORE THEN.
……
OY!!!
WHAT THE HELL?!
THAT WAS TOO LOUD!
BUT YOU WEREN'T PAYING ATTENTION!

AHEM... BASICALLY, THE CHURCH AND THE PLACES WHERE THE FOURTH AND FIFTH INHERITANCES WERE LOCATED
HAVE ALL VANISHED WITHOUT TRACE

THE TRUTH IS

I'M LISTENING NOW
PLEASE CONTINUE
!

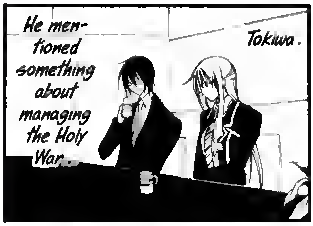

THERE IS A GROUP OUT THERE...
THAT HAS BEEN ATTACKING THE PLACES LIKE THE CHURCH, WHERE GOD'S INHERITANCES HAVE BEEN LOCATED.

THAT'S IT, DELETE!
!

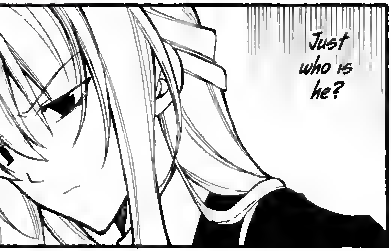
"DELETING"

NO
ATTACKING ISN'T REALLY THE RIGHT WORD...
.....

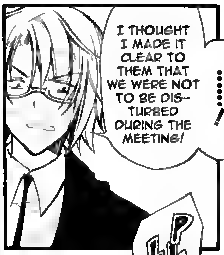
MANY OF GOD'S INHERITANCES THAT WE'VE TRIED TO OBTAIN...
HAVE BEEN STOLEN BY THIS GROUP...
!
WELL THAT IS INDEED AN OBSTACLE


He mentioned something about managing the Holy War...
Tokiwa.

WE FEEL THE SAME WAY.
AND IT'S HIGHLY LIKELY THAT THIS GROUP THINKS THE SAME OF ARCANA


Just who is he?

PI...
フッ


I THOUGHT I MADE IT CLEAR TO THEM THAT WE WERE NOT TO BE DISTURBED DURING THE MEETING!
.....!
PI...

PI...
PI...

PLL
PLL

WHAT DID YOU SAY?
HUH?

WE'RE BUSY RIGHT NOW

PLL
PLL

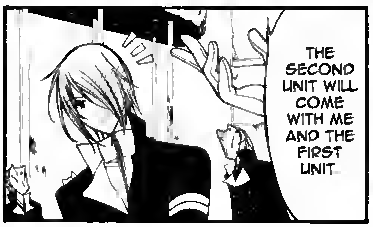
YOUR
YOUR EXCELLENCY THIS IS BAD
THE LOWER FLOORS

SO, THIS IS ARCANA'S STRONG-HOLD...
ARCANA
HELLO? WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN THERE?
WHAT THE HELL!?
!?
CAN YOU HEAR ME?!
HEY - SAY SOMETHING!

DON'T TELL ME...
THAT THIS ENTIRE STRUCTURE BELONGS TO ARCANA?

WE WILL COMMENCE THE PURGING OF ARCANA.
ARCANA

START-ING NOW,


THE SECOND UNIT WILL COME WITH ME AND THE FIRST UNIT.

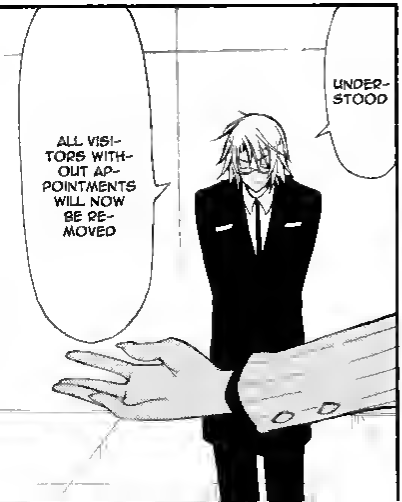
THE FIFTH UNIT WILL TAKE A DIFFER-ENT ROUTE

ARCANA REPORTEDLY ONLY OCCUPY THE 30TH FLOOR THROUGH THE 50TH FLOOR.
IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN AT LEAST HALF A DAY TO SEIZE CONTROL OF THE ENTIRE BUILDING
THAT'S A RELIEF

!!!
WHO ARE THESE GUYS?
WHAT DID YOU SAY...?
T-THEY'RE THE ONES WHO HAVE BEEN GOING AFTER THE INHERI-TANCES,
I MET HIM ONCE BEFORE!
THEY ARE SECURELY LOCKED IN THE VAULT
WHAT ABOUT THE INHERI-TANCE THAT WE RECENTLY ACQUIRED?
EX-CEL-LENT

THE CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE NEGATED THE FUTURE THAT I HAD FORESEEN.
THE FUTURE WILL NOW BE INFLUENCED BY THE DISTURBANCES FROM THE LAST HOLY WAR

NEVERTHELESS,
WE CANNOT AFFORD TO HAND OVER ANY INHERITANCE


UNDERSTOOD
ALL VISITORS WITHOUT APPOINTMENTS WILL NOW BE REMOVED

STRENGHTEN SECURITY!
DO NOT ALLOW THEM TO PROGRESS ANY FURTHER

カツ
THE PRESI-DENT IS UNABLE TO SEE YOU NOW
PLEASE LEAVE
KIKU-SAKA, MOVE THEM
YES SIR
!
IF YOU WILL NOT LEAVE OF YOUR OWN ACCORD, WE WILL USE FORCE

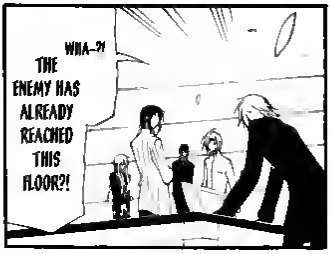
TO BE ABLE TO DIE FROM ONE OF GOD'S INHERITANCES
IS AN HONORABLE DEATH, YOUNG LADIES

DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?
EH...?

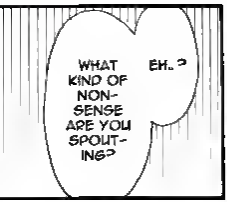
BE THANK-FUL

TOKIWA-SAN,
THE PATH IS CLEARED

THESE ENEMIES SEEM TO BE A BIT TROUBLESOME
YOU SHOULD ESCAPE. I WILL LEAD YOU TO THE BACK EXIT.


WHA-?!
THE ENEMY HAS ALREADY REACHED THIS FLOOR?!

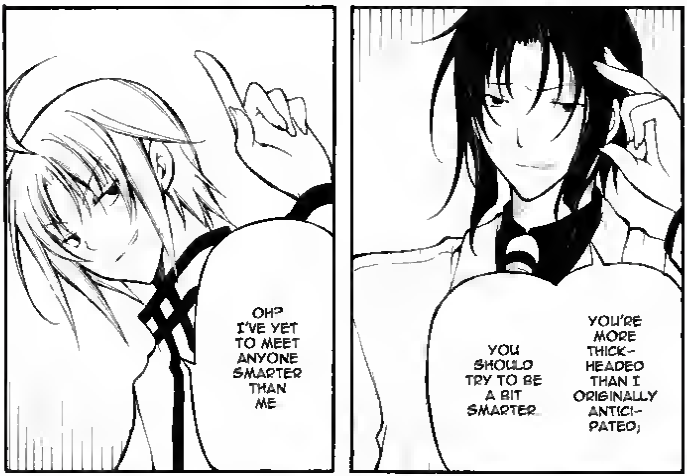
YOU CAN'T UNDERESTIMATE THE ELEVATORS
MODERN BUILDINGS ARE EASY TO CAPTURE


EH..?
WHAT KIND OF NONSENSE ARE YOU SPOUTING?

THIS WAY
THEY HAVEN'T SOLIDIFIED A PERIMETER YET, SO YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO BREAK THROUGH.

WHAT COULD WE POSSIBLY DO AT A TIME LIKE THIS BESIDES LEND YOU A HAND AND PUT YOU IN A DEBT OF GRATITUDE?
WE'RE ALLIES NOW, YOU KNOW.
What a pain.
Roger
BUT JUST TO BE SAFE, YOU TWO WILL ASSIST ME.
I'M PRETTY SURE I COULD HANDLE THIS BY MYSELF,
HUH ...?
UMM ..
?
WE'RE DOING YOU A HUUUGE FAVOR, SO BE SURE TO PAY US BACK.
IF YOU GUYS WERE TO BE DESTROYED, IT WOULD BE TROUBLESOME FOR US
MAN,

MAYBE WE'VE OVER-STAYED OUR WEL-COME?
UNLESS OF COURSE YOU'RE HIDING SOME-THING THAT YOU DON'T WANT KNOWN ..
.....

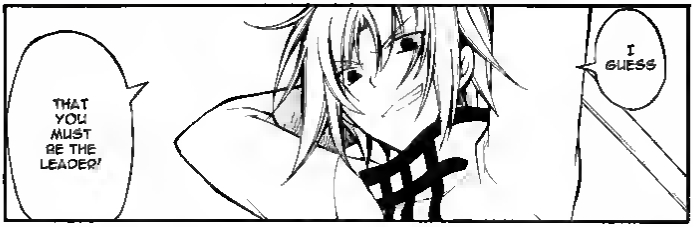

OH? I'VE YET TO MEET ANYONE SMARTER THAN ME
YOU SHOULD TRY TO BE A BIT SMARTER
YOU'RE MORE THICK-HEADED THAN I ORIGINALLY ANTICI-PATED,

THE ENEMIES,
THEY'RE ALMOST HERE!

ヒュ
ヒュ
ヒュ
ヒュ
EVERYONE..
COME OUT QUIETLY. RESISTANCE IS FUTILE.
I DON'T WANT ANY POINTLESS DEATHS

YOU SEEM TO BE PRETTY FULL OF YOURSELF...

I AM GLAD TO HAVE FOUND YOU SO QUICKLY
YOU ARE ARCANA'S REPRESENTATIVE CORRECT?


I GUESS
THAT YOU MUST BE THE LEADER!

YOU OUGHT TO KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT DURING SURPRISE ATTACKS.

I DON'T RECALL ORDERING FOR ANY SMALL FRIES

ドゴォ

PROTECT THE COM-MAND-ER.

"SUSPEN-SION"
"BINDING!!"

WHA-
YOU AS WELL,
"BECOME BOUND!!"

EH ...?
THAT WAS EASY ENOUGH
!?

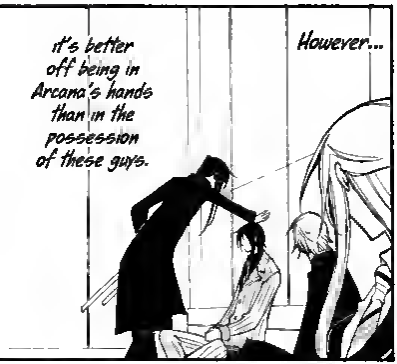
I SIMPLY HAD TO MAKE USE OF THE ANTI-ANGEL INHERI-TANCE FOR A BIT.
I HAD INFOR-MATION THAT THE GOD CANDI-DATE WOULD BE HERE
.....
!!

SIT BACK AND EVALUATE THE SITUATION
DON'T DO IT
IF YOU DRAW A WEAPON, YOU'LL BE TARGETED
IT WILL BE MUCH FASTER IF WE JUST HAVE THE PRESIDENT TELL US
HOWEVER THE MOST VALUABLE ONES ARE QUITE WELL-HIDDEN.
I'D SAY WE'VE RECOVERED ABOUT 80% OF THEM,
WE ARE CURRENTLY SEARCHING FOR GOD'S INHERITANCES.
WE HAVE SEIZED CONTROL OF ALL THE FLOORS

WHERE IS "IT"?
.....
IF YOU WON'T ANSWER ME OF YOUR OWN WILL, I'LL HAVE TO FORCE YOU TO SPIT IT OUT

YOU SHOULD TALK BEFORE SOMEONE GETS HURT,
TELL ME THE WHEREABOUTS OF ARCANA'S MOST VALUABLE INHERITANCE
WHERE IS THE "GRAIL OF CREATION?"

!!


However...
It's better off being in Arcana's hands than in the possession of these guys.

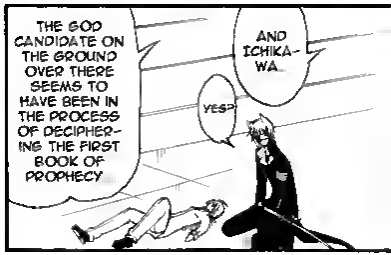
Did Arcana actually obtain something like that?
The Grail. Even by the standards of God's Inheritances, that is an extremely powerful artifact

YOU SPEAK FREELY ABOUT MY CLOSELY-GUARDED SECRETS IN THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS
YOU DON'T CALL AHEAD, YOU WALK ABOUT IN YOUR STREET SHOES, AND ON TOP OF THAT...

I SUSPECT YOUR UPBRINGING WAS POOR,
YOU HAVE NO CLASS

I AM NOT INTERESTED IN COLLECTING GOD CANDIDATES
TAKE HIM AWAY;

ROGER
TAKE HIM AND MAKE HIM TALK
..WELL THEN KIKUSAKA, IT'S YOUR TURN

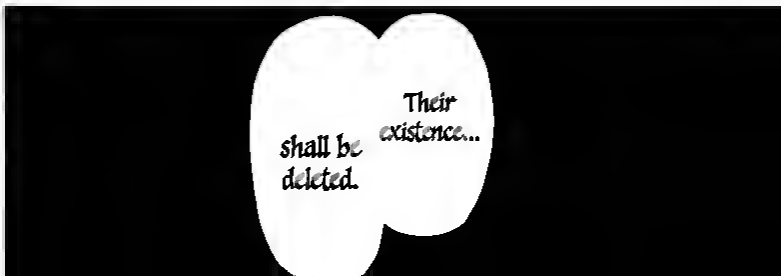

THE GOD CANDIDATE ON THE GROUND OVER THERE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN IN THE PROCESS OF DECIPHERING THE FIRST BOOK OF PROPHECY
AND ICHIKAWA...
YES?

SIT BACK DOWN
KUH
GAH
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE, BEHAVE YOUR-SELF
SINCE YOU ARE NOT WITH ARCANA,
NICE TO MEET YOU.

THEIR EXISTENCE IS EVIL IN AND OF ITSELF.

ARCANA,
THEY'RE NOTHING BUT LOW-BORN BANDITS
WHO GREEDILY HUNT FOR GOD'S INHERITANCE.

In the name of Kamuhaburi, the "GOD BURIERS", I will purge them.


Their existence...
shall be deleted.